



# The Lubbock SERRAN

Volume 8 Issue 3

January 2005

## President's Message

Fellow Serrans,

As we say good-bye to 2004 and welcome in 2005, I cannot help but take a moment to look at our Serra club year. It is hard to believe seven months have already gone by since the club year began on June 1. The months have literally flown by.

One of the district goals for this year, as expressed by district governor Jake Richards, is that clubs have strong, active committees. When Jake presented our program at the October dinner meeting, he congratulated us for our efforts in meeting this goal. I agree with him and think the reason we are meeting this goal is that we have great committee chairpersons and great club members who are generous in giving of their time and efforts.

A person doesn't have to look long to see the benefits of our committees' work. We have had and continue to have outstanding programs at the meetings. The Christmas mass and dinner, Sisters Appreciation dinner, and the golf outing were all first-rate events. The vocation's committee continues to find ways to support vocations in the diocese. And how about the new vests? WOW!

Ten new members have joined us this year. The membership committee has done an outstanding job of getting all involved in inviting potential members to our meetings. Look for another special event for potential members to take place this spring.

More people know about the Lubbock Serra Club and about our mission because of the work of the communications committee. The committee continues to put together great newsletters. Check out in this issue the terrific profile articles along with the stories and schedules concerning the club's activities.

I wish you God's blessings in this new year. May this be our best year yet for the Lubbock Serra Club.

Gary



*Alicia Chavez and Peter Walz became our newest members at the Christmas Dinner on Dec. 9. Pictured (l to r): Louise Sundell, membership chairman; Art Chavez, Alicia Chavez, Bishop Placido Rodriguez, Peter Walz, and Jeroldine Walz.*

## Serrans Enjoy Christmas Dinner

On Dec. 9, 2004 the Lubbock Serra Club held its annual Christmas mass and dinner. The event took place at the Catholic Renewal Center Hall of Martyrs. A mass celebrated by Bishop Rodriguez preceded the dinner.

During the mass Bishop Rodriguez inducted two new members into the Lubbock Serra Club. **Peter Walz** a native of New York moved to Lubbock in the late '70's and is employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. He met his wife Jeroldine at work and they married in 2001. Peter is a member of Our Lady of Grace parish. Also inducted was **Alice Chavez**, wife of Art Chavez, and a member of Christ the King parish since 1974. Alice is a counselor at Lubbock High School and is active in a number of community activities. The induction brought the number of new members to 10 for the year.

After the mass Bishop Rodriguez and the Serra Club enjoyed fellowship and dinner. Following the meal Gary McDonald, President of the Lubbock Serra Club, presented Bishop Rodriguez with the Serra Club's annual

contribution to the Bishop's Seminarian Burse. The contribution totaled \$2,220.

Thanks go to our Special Events committee who planned and setup the Christmas mass and dinner. The committee is chaired by Elroy Sinnacher with members Elmus Beale, John Mosser and Brian Beauchamp.



*Bishop Placido Rodriguez accepts a check for \$2,220 from Gary McDonald.*

# Deacons and the Church

*(Editor's Note) On Saturday, Jan 22, 19 deacons were ordained in the Diocese of Lubbock. Dick McCann, one of the newly ordained deacons, contributed the following article to this newsletter to help us understand the role of the diaconate. The article is taken from: Deacons and the Church: Owen F. Cummings.*

The church understands the presbyterate and the diaconate to be different grades in sharing the ministry of the bishop. Cardinal Walter Kasper has a fine analogy that helps here: "To support him, the bishop has, so to say, two arms, which at times have different tasks." Thus, the bishop has the fullest extent of the sacrament of ordination, representing the priesthood and ministry of Jesus Christ, and priests and deacons have a graduated share in this one sacramental ministry granted to the bishop. Both priests and deacons function as representatives of the bishop, all of them working to promote the communion of the church for the sake of the world. One recent student of the permanent diaconate knits the theology of ministry together in the words: "Collegiality, collaboration and communion are the backdrop for the Second Vatican Council's teaching on the ordained ministry."

At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons, upon whom hands are imposed "not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service." For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests, they serve the People of God

in the ministry of the liturgy, of the word and of charity. It is the duty of the deacon, to the extent that he has been authorized by competent authority, to administer baptism solemnly, to be custodian and dispenser of the Eucharist, to assist at and bless marriages, in the name of the Church, to bring Viaticum to the dying, to read the sacred Scripture to the faithful, to instruct and exhort the people, to preside at the worship and prayer of the faithful, to administer sacramentals, and to officiate at funeral and burial services. Dedicated to duties of charity and administration, let deacons be mindful of the admonition of Blessed Polycarp: "Be merciful, diligent, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all." ... With the consent of the Roman Pontiff, this diaconate will be able to be conferred upon men of more mature age, even upon those living in the married state. It may also be conferred upon suitable young men. For them, however, the law of celibacy must remain intact (*Lumen Gentium*, paragraph 29).

It is quite a remarkable paragraph, marking as it does the only article where the Second Vatican Council announces a future change in the practice and discipline of the Latin Church. For almost one thousand years the diaconate had been simply a stepping-stone on the way to priesthood in our western church, but now a change was about to occur.

## A Letter from Fr. Tim Judd



Fr. Tim Judd

The Holy Father, John Paul II called, as you know, an International Eucharistic Congress, beginning October 10-17, in Guadalajara, Mexico! Our great Reverendo Padre Raymundo Manriquez, from Saint

Theresa Church in Hale Center and Saint Peter's Church in Olton, was able to attend this most magnificent and colossal event in the history of the church. Wow! Father Raymundo has the most interesting stories to tell about this very impressive moment in time. My suggestion would be to invite Father Raymundo and hear and see for yourself what he has personally experienced. You will not be disappointed! Really!!!

Can you believe this: during the Jubilee Year 2000, His Eminence Cardinal Juan

Sandoval Iniguez, in Guadalajara, ordained 50 men to the priesthood!

This past year on Dec. 24th he ordained 32 priest and 22 Deacons. Wow! Wow! The cardinal tells the people that it is not quantity but the quality of the men that he ordained; that is important. What a true blessing to have such large numbers of holy men ordained. The church really needs them!

Congratulations to the Catholics of Texas! We now have two Archdioceses: San Antonio and Galveston Houston.

The Serra Club of Lubbock is in my daily prayers and Holy Mass. Thank You for your prayers and sacrifices for vocations.

May God Bless You Forever In  
Our Blessed Mother Mary,

Rev. Timothy E. Judd  
Assistant Chaplain

## From the District Governor

I invite each of you to visit the web site containing information from the Third Continental Congress on Vocations which was held in Montreal April 2002. In particular the Executive Summary and the Recruitment Seminar. Whether you are seeing this information for the first time or revisiting, I think you will find it enlightening and useful in your efforts as Serrans in conjunction with all Catholics to promote a culture of vocations within the Church.

The address is: [www.usccb.org/vocations/3rdcontinental.htm](http://www.usccb.org/vocations/3rdcontinental.htm)

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Jake Richards

## Lubbock Serrans Support Vocations

### Vocation Awareness Week

The Serra Club of Lubbock participated in Vocation Awareness Week, Jan. 9 through 15. On Sunday Jan 9<sup>th</sup> at all masses celebrated at Christ the King Cathedral, members of the club wearing their new yellow vests, carried the vocation banner and manned a table with brochures and information about vocations.

### Vocation Discernment Event

On Friday evening, Jan. 14 the Diocese Vocations Committee sponsored a dinner for high school age and older people who are considering a religious vocation. The event was held at the rectory at Christ the King Cathedral. Members of the CTK vocations committee and the Serra club hosted the event.

### Deacon Ordination

On Saturday, Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>, at Christ the King Cathedral Serrans were again visible at a special mass conducted by Bishop Placido Rodriguez. During the ceremony 19 new Deacons were ordained. Serrans served as ushers and greeters.

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## Priest Profile - Fr. Rene Pérez

### Personal

Marcos Rene Pérez was born May 21, 1970 in Mercy Hospital (now Mercy Retreat Center)



*Fr. Rene Pérez*

in Slaton, Texas. He is the son of Jesus H. and Reyes Pérez. Fr. Rene has 8 sisters (Emily, Rosa, Gloria, Carmen, Cecilia, Cathy, Angelica and Amanda) and 3 brothers (Michael, Greg and Frank). Fr. Rene also has 23 nieces and nephews

and 5 great nieces and nephews.

Fr. Rene loves sports. He is a huge Dallas Cowboys and Texas Tech Red Raiders fan. He enjoys playing basketball, volleyball and tennis. He also likes listening to music (all kinds) and reading. When he gets the chance, Fr. Rene

enjoys traveling. He has been to Italy, Mexico, Central America, Hawaii, and all over the mainland United States.

### Education

Fr. Rene attended Cooper schools in Woodrow, Texas and graduated from CHS in 1988. He finished one semester at Texas Tech University. In 1989, he began working full time for Southwestern Bell Telephone (now SBC) and enrolled at Wayland Baptist University-Lubbock Campus. He graduated from Wayland in January of 1995 with a Bachelors degree in Business Administration.

In January of 1997, Fr. Rene entered Assumption Seminary and Oblate School of Theology both in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from Oblate in May of 2003 with a Master of Divinity degree. Fr. Rene is currently spending his summers studying toward a Master of Arts in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. In

April of 2005, he will also enroll in a 3-year program entitled "Spirituality and Theology of Diocesan Priesthood: A Training Program in Spiritual Direction."

### Ministry

Fr. Rene served his pastoral year at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Brownfield, Texas from August 2001 to May 2002. He was ordained a transitional deacon December 14, 2002. His ordination to the priesthood was on May 31, 2003. After his ordination, he was assigned to Christ the King Cathedral in Lubbock, Texas, where he was Parochial Vicar. In 2003 he was also named Co-Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lubbock. He also serves on the Diocesan Liturgy Committee. In October of 2004, Fr. Rene was named Administrator of St. Isidore Catholic Church in Abernathy, Texas and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Petersburg, Texas.

## Member Profiles - Jeannette & Nasri Talamas

*By Elmus Beale*

They were Serrans long before they joined the club—but I'll save that story for later. Jeannette and Nasri were formally inducted into the club at the 2004 October dinner.

Jeannette Suckarieh was born in Damascus, Syria on Dec. 20, 1942. She is the first of three children. Her eldest brother, Joseph, received his medical degree in Syria and then came to America for further training. He remained here and is now a cardiovascular surgeon living in Midland. Her mother had followed Joseph to the US after Jeannette's father had died in 1972. Her youngest brother, George, is professor of civil engineering at the University of Cincinnati.

Her brothers led Jeannette to first come to the US. Her first husband, Antoine Deeb, died at a young age and left Jeannette a 24-year-old single mother of two children, Samy (then 7 months old, now a surgeon here in Lubbock) and Myléne (then 3 years old, now a Medical Technologist in Houston). Jeannette then went to work for Phillips Electronics in Damascus for the next 13 years. In 1982 she decided to join her mother and Joseph who was practicing cardiovascular surgery here in Lubbock. Nasri also came to Lubbock for the first time in 1982. He and Jeannette were married the next year on March 3, 1983 at Saint John Neumann Church in Lubbock.

Nasri, one of five children, was born on



*Nasri and Jeannette Talamas*

Feb. 19, 1936 in Jaffa, Palestine. When he was 12 years old the British asked his family to leave their home for a few days since a war was breaking out. They were told that they could soon return safely. That was May 1<sup>st</sup> of 1948—the last time ever again that they would see their home in Palestine. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the new State of Israel was declared. The Talamas family had left all of their belongings behind—lost forever. The family lived in a rented home for 40 days in the mountains of Lebanon. They then moved to Damascus where they shared part of a house belonging to a family member who was a priest. There they made a new and happy life.

Perhaps this terrible experience made Nasri a better person. In Damascus, he helped his father, an engineer. He was also a clerk

translating customs documents at a Foreign Affairs Bureau. He studied law for two years followed by business for another two years—but both studies were halted abruptly by war. He went to work in a bank (bankers hours are 8 – 2 in Syria), and after hours he helped many merchants/importers. At night he translated tender books (offers to buy) from Arabic to English and French. These rich experiences gave Nasri a broad understanding of international business and led him to become an independent middle-man/broker of imports and exports. Though retired from the import/export business, Nasri is office manager for his daughter-in-law, Emily Deeb, a family practice physician.

Both Jeannette and Nasri speak Arabic, French and English. In fact, they describe the language they speak to each other at home as a mix of Arabic and French (would that be 'Arabench' or 'Frabic'?).

So why were they already Serrans in practice? It began at home for both of them. There are numerous religious on both sides of their families. For Jeannette, her great uncle was a Malchite Priest in Egypt, her uncle was a Vincentian Priest who was president of the Lazariste School in Lebanon, and her father's sister was a Sister of Charity. She was taught by the Sisters of Charity for 12 years. "They were VERY STRICT as was father." It was a

*(See Talamas Page 4)*

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Jan. 7** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Jan. 11** Board Meeting Gary McDonald's Office 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 13** Lunch Meeting McInturff Center, UMC 12 Noon
- Jan. 13** Holy Hour for Vocations Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
- Jan. 18** Dinner Meeting Catholic Renewal Center 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 4** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Feb. 8** Board Meeting, TBA 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 10** Lunch Meeting McInturff Center, UMC 12 Noon
- Feb. 10** Holy Hour for Vocations Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
- Feb. 25** Dinner Meeting Catholic Renewal Center 6:30 p.m.
- Mar. 4** First Friday Rosary and Mass-CTK 6:35 A.M. Donuts and Coffee follows.
- Mar. 8** Board Meeting, TBA 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 10** Lunch Meeting McInturff Center, UMC 12 Noon
- Mar. 10** Holy Hour for Vocations Christ the King Cathedral 7:00 p.m.
- Apr. 1** Dinner Meeting Catholic Renewal Center 6:30 p.m.

Program Calendar		
Meeting	Speaker	Topic
Jan. 13 Luncheon McInturff Center, UMC	Fr. Rene Perez	Transition from Seminarian to Priest
Jan. 28 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Brad Brooks Fr. Andrez	ACTS Retreats / Cursillo Movement
Feb. 10 Luncheon McInturff Center, UMC	Speaker TBA	Diocesan Pastoral Council
Feb. 25 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Speaker TBA	
Mar. 10 Luncheon McInturff Center, UMC	Speaker TBA	
Apr. 1 Dinner Catholic Renewal Center	Carl Sundell	G.K. Chesterton / Apologetics
Apr. 14 Luncheon McInturff Center, UMC	Jeff Malpiede Cheryle Franke	Catholic Family Services
Apr. 29 Dinner Place TBA	TBA	Wine and Cheese event prospective new members invited

# Talamas

*(Continued from Page 3)*

wonderful school that had Jewish, Muslim and Christian children learning together. Jeannette and her mother were active in Les Dames de Charité (Ladies of Charity). Her father was active in St. Vincent DePaul. The entire family used to do weekly bible study with a Jesuit Priest. They would rotate among various parishioners' homes.



For Nasri, three of his father's sisters and two cousins were nuns. His grandfather was a highly respected lay leader of the Catholic Church in Jaffa. In fact, the Ottomans placed him under house arrest during WWI because he put in his name the church properties of foreign congregations (who were not allowed by the Turks to own property)—and he returned their properties after the war.

This same grandfather was president of the St. Vincent de Paul Charity. Both Nasri and his father were members of the same organization. Before moving to the US, Nasri was awarded a medal commemorating 25 years of service to the organization.

The Pope named Nasri's great uncle 'Count Antoine Talamas' for "Services to the Church and the 'Holy Land' Franciscan Custodians."

Nasri was active in the "Jeunesse Ouvrier

Chrétien" (Young Christian Workers) Movement and traveled hundreds of miles weekly doing its work. The Syrian government accused him of starting a political party and took his passport for four years in 1968-72. During that period he was constantly watched by the secret police and had to report regularly to their office for interrogation. Talk about persecution!

Jeannette and Nasri have done many things over the years to help and support Religious Vocations. For Nasri, it was customary in his boyhood home that any Priest was always welcome to a meal, shower and a bed to sleep in. Now, Jeannette and Nasri often host priests, sisters and seminarians in their home for meals and good conversation.

For fun, Jeannette loves cooking, reading and travel. Nasri loves sports, reading and travel. What rich experiences they bring to Serra. The club is indeed blest.

## Prayer List

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| John Connors    | Dan Prewitt      |
| Paul Meyer, Jr. | Millie Callow    |
| John Gaschen    | Barbara Buescher |
| Bob Paikowski   | Franklin Kitchen |

Visit Often

[www.serralubbock.org](http://www.serralubbock.org)